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iai news

21st Century Heresy Hunting



A new thought crime is upon us: denial.

Its persecution presents a new challenge to our most basic freedoms.

By Frank Furedi



Contemporary society is more comfortable with values in the plural than with a value that everyone can embrace. Instead of "the truth", society prefers to lecture about truths. The celebration of non-judgmentalism and difference can be interpreted as a self-conscious attempt to avoid having to make moral judgments. On most issues we are free to pick and choose our beliefs and affiliations. Educators continually inform university students – especially in the social sciences and humanities – that there is no such thing as a wrong or right answer. Instead of an explicit moral code, Western society seeks to police behaviour through a diffuse rhetoric – such as appropriate and inappropriate behaviour – that avoids confronting fundamental existential questions.

Paradoxically, the absence of moral clarity encourages an illiberal climate of intolerant behaviour. In a world where moralists find it difficult to clearly differentiate between right and wrong it is important that some kind of line is drawn between acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. Without a moral grammar to express ideas about right and wrong ethical guidance often has a forced and artificial character. Too often evil is represented in the caricatured form of the serial killer or the paedophile.

The Holocaust has been plucked out of its tragic historical context and transformed into a generic metaphor of evil.

It is joined by environmental pollution as a highly visual representation of moral depravity. The very few examples of unambiguous evil – paedophilia, Holocaust, pollution – are constantly seized upon to map out acts of potential moral transgression. Discovering new taboos is part of the job description of heresy hunters today.

Not being against the Holocaust is probably the most ritualised and institutionalised taboo operating in western societies. Numerous countries now have laws against Holocaust denial. For example in Austria the denial of the Holocaust is a crime that carries a prison term of up to ten years. Targeting Holocaust deniers is a culturally affirmed enterprise that allows politicians to occupy the moral high ground.

Moral entrepreneurs constantly embrace the Holocaust to lend legitimacy to their enterprise. They also insist that anyone who questions their version of events should be treated in a manner that is similar to those who deny the real Holocaust.

"Do Armenian citizens of France", [asks an advocate](#) of criminalising the denial of the Armenian genocide, "not deserve the same protection as their Jewish compatriots?"

During the past two decades the act of denial has become the most recognisable characteristic of the 21st century heretic.

Just as the charge of Holocaust denial serves as a moral warrant to withdraw the right to freely question a particular version of events so the denial of claims made by fashionable causes invite censorship and intolerance.

Following the precedent set by the anti-Holocaust denial laws, in October 2006, the French National Assembly passed a law that could sentence to a year's imprisonment anyone who denied the 1915 Armenian genocide.

It is a sign of the time that very few people questioned the right of the French state to pronounce which

interpretation of the past was legitimate and which was a crime. Yet the implication of authorising the state to possess the power to dictate what people should believe and what constitutes the historical truth represents a fundamental threat to freedom. The very idea of toleration evolved because far-sighted people understood that the meaning of the truth and the true religion was contested and ought to be a matter for individual reflection. From the standpoint of tolerance, truths – historical or otherwise – are discovered by independent thinking citizens learning from one another in the course of a debate. They should not be laid down in a decree of the state.

No doubt those who deny the Holocaust personify the most backward and vile human sentiments but to ban their ideas is far more dangerous than the impact of their speech. Worse still, the suggestion that society fears the claims of Holocaust deniers betrays an insecurity about its own ideas. By assuming the role of the censor it betrays its own democratic principles and risks losing the moral authority of its version of events.

The transformation of the act of denial to a transcendental generic evil is shown by the ease with which its stigmatisation has leaped from the realm of historic controversies surrounding acts of genocide to other areas of debate.

Denial has acquired the status of a free-floating blasphemy that can attach itself to a variety of controversies.

[**One opponent of climate change denial**](#) observes that the "language of 'climate change', 'global warming', 'human impacts' and 'adaptation' are themselves a form of denial familiar from other forms of human right abuse".

It appears that moral crusaders have become so overwhelmed with the act of denial that they no longer tell what a difference in opinion looks like. The rhetorical inflation of the consequences of denial is informed by the aspiration to construct a plausible ideology of evil.

The very term "denial" implies that what's at stake is the status of truth. Those who deny wilfully refuse to recognise the self-evident truth. The vilification of denial ensures that its practitioners are dispossessed of the right to have a voice.

Sadly not accepting a received wisdom is often represented not as disagreement but as an act of denial – and with the stigmatisation of denial this charge has acquired the form of a secular blasphemy.

So a book written by an author sceptical of prevailing environmentalist wisdom was dismissed in [Nature](#) with the words; "the text employs the strategy of those, who for example, argue that gay men aren't dying of AIDS, that Jews weren't singled out by the Nazis for extermination, and so on." The suggestion that there is a common strategy of denial used in these three highly-charged issues betrays the conspiratorial imagination of heresy hunters.

The stigmatisation of denial represents the prelude for the demand that it be censored. Take the attempt to stifle anyone who raises doubts about the catastrophic representation of climate change. Such sceptics are frequently stigmatised as "global warming deniers" and

their behaviour is often compared to those of anti-Semitic Holocaust deniers.

Some moral entrepreneurs advocate a policy of zero tolerance towards the target of their crusade: The language used to condemn the heretic typically appeals to a sacred authority that must not be questioned. According to this model "overwhelming evidence" serves as the equivalent of revealed religious truth and those who dare question "scientists of unquestioned reputation" – that is, a new priestly caste – are guilty of blasphemy.

Heresy hunters who charge their opponents with "ecological denial" **also warn that** "time for reason and reasonableness is running short". It appears that ecological denial or the refusal to embrace an environmentalist world view is to be complicit in the commitment of a long list of "eco-crimes".

Those who denounce the new heresy often cannot resist the temptation of seeking to shut down discussion. Some claim that, like Holocaust deniers, those who refuse to accept the sacred narrative on global warming should simply be silenced in the media. "There becomes a point in journalism where striving for balance becomes irresponsible", argues CBS reporter Scott Pelley in justification of this censorious orientation.

From this illiberal standpoint the media has a responsibility to silence global warming deniers by whatever means necessary.

Crusaders against denial are not merely interested in silencing their opponents. In the true tradition of heresy hunting they also want to inflict punishment upon those who deny the true faith. Those who deny the official consensus on the spread of AIDS are castigated as "AIDS deniers". And "if Holocaust-deniers deserve to be punished, so do Aids deniers" argued A Smyth in First Post, before

adding that "it is high time African governments outlawed denial of the epidemic, and persecuted those who perpetuate misinformation about AIDS or in any way undermine efforts to tackle it". A similar approach is adopted by illiberal opponents of "climate change deniers". Australian journalist Margo Kingston wrote that as "David Irving is under arrest in Austria for Holocaust denial" perhaps "there is a case for making climate change denial an offence". Why? Because it is a "crime against humanity, after all".

David Roberts, a journalist for the online magazine Grist, would also like to see global warming deniers prosecuted like Nazi war criminals. With the tone of vitriol characteristic of dogmatic inquisitors he has noted that "we should have war crimes trials for these bastards", adding "some sort of climate Nuremberg".

The arguments used by moral entrepreneurs suggest that denial constitutes what traditional religion used to classify as sinful or dangerous ideas. A long time ago theocrats realised that the authority of their belief system would be reinforced if they insisted that "**God punishes disbelief**". Moreover they also need to be punished because of the evil impact that their blasphemy has on others.

Today's inquisitors have taken on board this insight and insist that since people need to be protected from disbelief its repression is often depicted as an act of responsible behaviour.

Frank Furedi is a Commentator, author and sociologist whose recent work explores the nature of authority and mistrust. A leading voice in discussions of fear, risk and the unknown.

<http://iainews.iai.tv/articles/21st-century-heresy-hunting-auid-491>



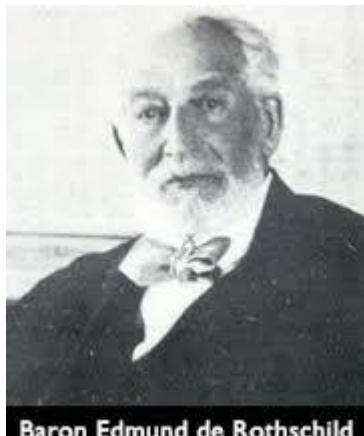
Discussing India, Global Trends, Strategy and Undercurrents

January 25, 2015

Zionist hand revealed:

Rothschild family had purchased Charlie Hebdo in December 2014

Paris, 2015-01-22 09:43:27



Baron Edmund de Rothschild

According to revelations from a very credible Dutch Business magazine, *Quote*, on the 9th January, and confirmed by German Newspaper *Neopresse* on 19th January, **Charlie Hebdo was sold to the Rothschild family in December 2014**.

It appears that this acquisition was the subject of heated discussions among family members according to the Baron Philippe de Rothschild, who recently gave an interview to *Quote* magazine published in January.

"There was a discussion concerning the acquisition that was completed by my uncle Baron Edouard de Rothschild" Philippe said. "Certain family members wanted to prevent the purchase, because they felt the purchase of this daily publication would be seen as giving us political influence. We wanted to avoid that at all

costs. We do not want to be seen to be involved in politics, at least not in such a transparent way! In the end the family reticence was overcome"

Baron Philippe Rothschild informed Quote that the acquisition of Charlie Hebdo was finalised in December 2014.

It is clear that it was not met with approval by the whole family in the 'underworld', but it is also clear that the problem lay with the high profile nature of this purchase. As Philippe explained, the Rothschild family does not wish to meddle in politics "at least not overtly"!

The problem it appears, was that purchase of Charlie Hebdo would bring the Rothschild's subversive involvement to the surface.

It does not need much imagination to create a link between this purchase only weeks before the attack on the daily satirical media outlet that was already a known Zionist platform for hate speech.

Let us not forget that since the attack, the magazine is rumoured to have received 20 million euros from the Government and its sales have boomed exponentially.

It is maybe the same way of thinking that would lead us to question the sale of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre to Larry Silverstein in the summer of 2001, followed by their destruction in an alleged "terrorist" attack in September of the same year.

Particularly as it is known now that Silverstein changed the terms of his insurance to cover unexpected terrorist attacks only six weeks before the attack.

This information cannot be presented as categorical proof of Zionist involvement in the Charlie Hebdo attacks but it must make us think and consider all possibilities. It must most certainly make us question the mainstream media narrative that is already so full of anomalies.

Vanessa Beeley, International Correspondent, Medhaj News

<http://medhajnews.com/article.php?id=NjAwMA>

Section 18D doesn't protect free speech.

Arguing it does is absurd. In practice, 18C declares you guilty, 18D allows you to profess your innocence.

Charlie Hebdo v 18C: no contest

TIM WILSON, THE AUSTRALIAN, JANUARY 19, 2015 12:00AM

CHARLIE Hebdo would have been a legal publication in Australia. But it would have faced regular efforts to have it shut down or censored under state and federal laws.

In Australia the primary legal weapon used against *Charlie Hebdo* would have been section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act, which makes it unlawful to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate on the basis of race, colour, national or ethnic origin.

18C doesn't cover religion, but *Charlie Hebdo* published many cartoons on race as well as ethno-religious topics that could have been deemed offensive under it. This is outlined in the explanatory memorandum to the bill that introduced 18C.

The memo said "it is intended that Australian courts would follow the prevailing definition of 'ethnic origin' ... (which) involves consideration of one or more characteristics ... this would provide the broadest basis for protection of peoples such as Sikhs, Jews and Muslims".

It's this interpretation that led to former *Sydney Morning Herald* columnist Mike Carlton facing a complaint under 18C because of his disgraceful anti-Semitic language.

18C would have been used against *Charlie Hebdo* because it sets a low bar to restrict free speech. Administratively, 18C also makes it easy to take action; all you need is an aggrieved party and an arguable case.

Charlie Hebdo's publishers would then have been caught up in regular disputes and subsequent legal battles if they refused to back down. After significant cost and time, courts would have had to test whether each cartoon enjoyed exemptions under the impossibly opaque section 18D of the act, which requires publication to be undertaken reasonably and in good faith.

Many cartoons were satirical, but they were also designed to strongly provoke and didn't seek to minimise the offence caused.

That may mean they wouldn't always be covered by the exemptions. Each one would have to be assessed on its merits.

Even if 18D did apply in all cases, that doesn't justify 18C. **Section 18D doesn't protect free speech. Arguing it does is absurd. In practice, 18C declares you guilty, 18D allows you to profess your innocence.**

Censorship doesn't just occur because a court silences a voice. Censorship also occurs because bad laws allow publications to be bullied through legal processes until their only viable option is to cower and self-censor.

Charlie Hebdo would have been destroyed through a thousand 18C complaints.

The *Charlie Hebdo* massacre is a tragedy, and it should be a reminder that we need to defend free speech even when speech offends and insults.

Offence and insult are subjective, emotional responses to the actions of others. Individuals can be offended and insulted by just about anything, even when it is not intended. For that reason, a law that prohibits speech that merely offends and insults sets the bar too low. Instilling these principles in law ultimately leads to self-censorship.

For example, last year Anthony Mundine did an interview on Channel 7's *Sunrise* program. During Andrew O'Keefe's interview Mundine said Aboriginality and the "choice" of homosexuality were incompatible and homosexuality shouldn't be shown on prime time television. The basis of his comment was "Aboriginal law".

Mundine has probably taken too many blows to the head in the boxing ring and his comments are stupid and

offensive. We can say both those things. And in a free and democratic country Mundine should be allowed to say stupid and offensive things.

But that doesn't mean the basis of his offensive comments is wrong. Across the country I've met gay and lesbian Aboriginal Australians who have told me horrible stories of how they're treated.

Not that poor treatment of gay and lesbian people is limited to Aboriginal culture. Many ethnic cultures engage in even more horrific treatment of gay and lesbian people, including in Australia.

But if we want to harshly criticise the justification of Mundine's commentary we risk offending his ethnic origins. Because of 18C Australians have to cautiously discuss the topic, especially non-Aboriginal Australians.

The example highlights a fundamental flaw of 18C. The assumption behind the law is that racism essentially comes from the dominant racial group against minorities. That isn't the case. Sometimes minorities judge each other horribly and harshly.

One of the cheap party tricks of 18C's defenders is asking the leading question: "What is it that you want to

say that you can't say?" The assumption is that you want to say something racist. That isn't the case. When Mundine made his despicable comments I censored my response because of 18C and the risk that I'd offend or insult his heritage.

Would I have been let off because of 18D? Possibly. I can't say with confidence my comments would have been judged to have been in "good faith".

Regardless, I don't fancy being hauled through the Human Rights Commission or a court for refusing to apologise. So it is to self-censor rather than criticise another's bigotry.

Chalk that up as a victory for social inclusion and harmony. 18C gives legal privileges to some to be bigots while we allow the law to intimidate others into self-censorship who want to respond.

Tim Wilson is Australia's Human Rights Commissioner.

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<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/charlie-hebdo-v-18c-no-contest/story-e6frq6zo-122718897696>

18C makes us all tongue-tied

JEREMY SAMMUT, [THE AUSTRALIAN](#), JANUARY 20, 2015 12:00AM

The *Charlie Hebdo* massacre has renewed calls for the federal parliament to amend Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act. According to Race Discrimination Commissioner Tim Soutphommasane, this is not necessary because the RDA already protects fair comment on matters of public interest.

Unfortunately, Soutphommasane's confidence in the - alleged safeguards are misplaced. In the wake of the Andrew Bolt case, Section 18C silences the vital debates we should be having about indigenous affairs.

The number of indigenous Australians increased by 21 per cent between 2006 and 2011, largely driven by an increasing number of people self-identifying as indigenous based on family history and descent.

Some of these people look and live much like non-indigenous Australians, and have suffered few obvious difficulties due to their indigenous status. The new identifiers, like the majority of urban indigenous Australians, have high rates of intermarriage, and have social outcomes that rival their non-indigenous peers.

Providing many of these indigenous Australians with race-based government assistance, such as Abstudy, arts scholarships or preferment in public sector employment, will do little to overcome indigenous disadvantage.

Indigenous identity and entitlement is therefore a genuine public policy issue and should be a legitimate topic for public discussion. However, Andrew Bolt was successfully prosecuted under Section 18C precisely because he questioned whether so-called "light-skinned Aborigines" should automatically receive special help. Who now will want to raise this issue and face the risk of also being charged with racial hatred by an offended individual or group of individuals, given the Bolt precedent?

The fear of potential legal action under the RDA also means the nation will debate the question of recognising indigenous people in the Constitution with its tongue tied.

Proposals for indigenous recognition start with acknowledgment of traditional ownership, but also

include calls to outlaw discrimination, establish a right to traditional culture, and even reserve seats in parliament for indigenous representatives.

If one section of the community is seeking special legal privileges, we should be able to discuss freely and frankly the merits of these claims. But a free and frank debate will not occur so long as Section 18C remains on the - statute books.

Section 18C also impacts on my work on indigenous child protection. Many indigenous children who need to be removed from their families are subject to the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle and are placed with a relative or members of their community. This is done to maintain contact with indigenous culture in the name of ensuring children retain their indigenous identity. In practice, the ACPP means some children are removed from dysfunctional families only to end up living in equally dysfunctional circumstances, especially in rural and remote areas.

The ACPP is anachronistic compared to modern indigenous identity. Many indigenous people have little contact with traditional customs and lands, yet this does not prevent them from identifying as indigenous.

It is therefore legitimate to question why we are persisting with the ACPP. And we should also be able to point out some obvious double standards. Supporters of the ACPP include some members of the indigenous elite whose own children enjoy all the benefits of mainstream society. Yet they defend a policy that denies the most disadvantaged indigenous children from enjoying the same opportunities based on a definition of indigenous identity they deem irrelevant to their own identity and that of their children.

But guess what could happen if these people were called out? Academic Anthony Dillon has written that after the Bolt case, as a part-indigenous man he can say things about indigenous identity that a non-indigenous person would be highly likely to be sued for saying.

With this advice ringing in my ears, Section 18C means I self-censor. I don't go as hard on the question of the

ACPP and indigenous identity as I might, because of what might happen if I push too hard.

This is what critics of Section 18C mean when they talk about the silencing effect of so-called "hate speech" laws. Free speech is stifled to avoid running the legal gauntlet, and public debate is the worse for it.

Jeremy Sammut is a research fellow at The Centre for Independent Studies and author of *The Kinship Conundrum: The Impact of Aboriginal Self-Determination on Indigenous Child Protection*.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/c-makes-us-all-tongue-tied/story-e6frg6zo-1227189986845>

Opinions

France's free speech double standard

By [Ann Telnaes](#) January 19 at 10:50 AM

The French comedian Dieudonné M'bala M'bala was arrested for posting a Facebook [comment](#) appearing to condone terrorism. He wrote "I'm feeling Charlie Coulibaly", in a reference to gunman [Amedy Coulibaly](#), who killed four hostages in a Kosher supermarket in Paris on January 9th.

Ann Telnaes is an editorial cartoonist for The Washington Post. She won the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning in 2001.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/opinions/wp/2015/01/19/frances-free-speech-double-standard/>



Why French Law Treats Dieudonné and Charlie Hebdo Differently

BY [ALEXANDER STILLE](#), JANUARY 15, 2015

On the same day that the French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* immediately sold out an initial run of five million copies of its latest issue—which featured a cover image of the prophet Muhammad—French police arrested the comedian and activist Dieudonné M'bala M'bala for writing on his Facebook page, "Je me sens Charlie Coulibaly."* Dieudonné was charged with "incitement of terrorism," for appearing to offer a gesture of solidarity with Amedy Coulibaly, the Islamist gunman who murdered four hostages in a kosher grocery store in Paris last Friday, apparently in concert with the terrorists who carried out the massacre at *Charlie Hebdo*'s offices two days earlier.

The juxtaposition of the two events—the celebration of a magazine that routinely publishes cartoons considered blasphemous and offensive by many of the world's Muslims and the muscular prosecution of a relentlessly provocative black comedian—**has immediately exposed France to charges of hypocrisy and double standards.** To many French Muslims, it seems as if it's open season for ridicule and anti-Muslim sentiment, while the full power of the state is ready to come down on Dieudonné, who thumbs his nose at the French establishment and enjoys making provocative and thinly veiled anti-Semitic jokes.



The French comedian Dieudonné responded in characteristic style—provocatively—to last week's terror attacks. CREDITPHOTOGRAPH BY GONZALO FUENTES/REUTERS

The Facebook post was a shrewd move by Dieudonné. As I have written for this site before, the comedian has played [a complex cat-and-mouse game with the French state](#) for years, earning himself a raft of trials and half a dozen convictions for inciting racial hatred while, at the same time, building a considerable following, particularly among disaffected young people of North African and African origin. His comic performances have long included jokes such as "The Germans should have finished the job in 1945." *Charlie Hebdo*, for its part, has survived [forty-eight trials over the past twenty-two years](#), according to *Le Monde*, and has lost a total of nine times, generally for "injure"—personal defamation—rather than hate speech, after, for instance, describing a journalist as "a complete and utter cretin" and a right-wing politician as "the bitch of Buchenwald."

But attempts to punish the publication for religious insults have generally failed, whether it was referring to Pope John Paul II as "un pape de merde" (a shitty pope) or publishing cartoons of the prophet Muhammad.

The different treatment accorded to *Charlie Hebdo* and Dieudonné is, however, built into France's complex cluster of laws regulating protected speech. These laws are alternately very free and highly restrictive.

Right after the French Revolution, France abrogated its old laws making blasphemy a crime—and so *Charlie Hebdo*'s blasphemous depictions of Muhammad are not a crime.

At the same time, France's press laws, which date to the late nineteenth century, make it a crime to "provoke discrimination, hatred, or violence toward a person or group of persons because of their origin or belonging to a particular ethnicity, nation, race, or religion." In other words, you can ridicule the prophet, but you cannot incite hatred toward his followers.

To take two more examples, the actress Brigitte Bardot was convicted and fined for having written, in 2006, about France's Muslims, "We are tired of being led

around by the nose by this population that is destroying our country."

Meanwhile, the writer Michel Houellebecq (whose new novel was featured in the issue of *Charlie Hebdo* that came out just before the attack) was brought up on charges, but acquitted, for having said in an interview that Islam "is the stupidest religion." Bardot was clearly directing hostility toward Muslim people, and was thus found guilty, while Houellebecq was criticizing their religion, which is blasphemous, but not a crime, in France.

This complex distinction reflects modern France's anti-clerical roots: individuals are protected, but churches and their doctrines are not. There was a powerful desire among the French Republicans to destroy the hegemony of the Catholic Church after the Republic was definitively reestablished in 1871. This desire did not, however, extend to the creation of something akin to a First Amendment in France. Freedom of expression is mentioned prominently in the Rights of Man, but in practice it is far more restricted than in the U.S., and contains many confusing exceptions.

There is a law, for example, passed in 1881, against insulting the head of state. In 2008, when Nicolas Sarkozy was President, a man in a crowd refused to shake his hand. Sarkozy said angrily, "Casse-toi, pauv'con!" which means something like "Get lost, stupid jerk." But when a protester later brought a sign reading "Casse-toi, pauv'con!" to a public meeting attended by Sarkozy, the man was arrested and brought up on charges. According to French law, the President of the Republic can insult you, but you can't insult him—even with his own words.

In 1990, France passed a law that made it a crime to deny the Holocaust. Dieudonné has flouted this law by inviting onstage during his performances—to thunderous applause—Robert Faurisson, a notorious Holocaust denier. But Dieudonné avoided legal trouble by not actually remarking on Faurisson's theories.

In 2013, the French Parliament passed a law against the "direct" or "indirect" incitement of terrorism, and it is this law that is being invoked to prosecute Dieudonné for his recent Facebook post.

These kinds of exceptions, selective restrictions, and ambiguities in France's freedom-of-expression laws have left the country vulnerable to charges of political favoritism. France might consider either a broader conception of free speech—the notion that the answer to bad speech is more speech—or doing a better job of clarifying what is allowed, and why. That it does not relates, once more, to France's anti-clerical roots.

France's version of the separation of church and state—known as *laïcité*—has a much more anti-religious flavor than the establishment clause of the U.S. Constitution, which prevents the establishment of a state-sponsored Church not in order to suppress all public expression of religion but to allow a multitude of faiths to operate freely. In France, the long battle by Republicans against the Church generated broad hostility to most expressions of religion in public. This tradition came to the fore in 2004, when the Parliament passed the "veil" law prohibiting Muslim girls from wearing headscarves in public schools, and in 2010, when it prohibited face-

covering veils in public places.* While the law also included a ban against wearing yarmulkes and "large crosses" at school, the law was clearly inspired by a desire to crack down on the ability of France's Muslims to express a separate identity in public. In the U.S., such a ban would be opposed by conservatives and liberals alike as a serious limitation on religious freedom and freedom of expression.

Although the French are in no mood for compromise at the moment, they might want to reflect on the fact that America's Muslim minority, which is free to wear headscarves or not, is far more integrated into American life than France's. The immediate response in France to the recent massacre has been more forcefully to push its "our way or the highway" form of assimilation, which has, frankly, not been working.

This past week, when the French school system enforced a minute of silence for the victims of the *Charlie Hebdo* attack (generally under "Je Suis Charlie" signs), incidents were reported at some seventy French schools—mostly ones with large Muslim populations—where students resisted the observance. While many French see this as siding with the terrorists over the victims, this is not necessarily so. The French state was, in fact, forcing those students to pay homage to a publication that had, in their view, mocked their religion.

If it is legitimate for *Charlie Hebdo* to publish offensive cartoons, it must be legitimate to object, peacefully, to its doing so.

The broader debate about free expression—and about the discrepancy in the treatment accorded *Charlie Hebdo* and Dieudonné—also needs to consider the overall context of media in France. The airwaves and traditional media are dominated by non-Muslim voices. Entire radio and TV programs debate daily the merits and demerits of Islam in France, without much effort to include the views of those in the Muslim community. The commentators on these shows may stop short of hate speech, but many routinely engage in broad generalizations and negative stereotyping. In this context, the vigilant surveillance of Dieudonné's nasty provocations appears extremely one-sided and disproportionate, and gives him, sadly, far more importance than he deserves.

With France still reeling from last week's deadly attacks, it may take time for a moderate response to prevail.

But if the country wants to turn the attacks into a turning point for renewed national unity, it needs to show that its Republican values of freedom are inclusive and protect all its citizens—not only some of them.

Last week's tragedy could drive a wedge between violent extremists and France's Muslims, the vast majority of whom are peaceful, or it could deepen the divide between France's minorities and the rest of the country.

***Correction: This post has been amended to correct the wording of Dieudonné M'bala M'bala's Facebook post and the dates when France passed its first "veil" law and its later ban on face-covering veils.**

http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/french-law-treats-dieudonne-differently?mbid=social_facebook

Analysis / ICC inquiry is a game changer for Israel The International Criminal Court will consider four issues in examining whether Israel has a case to answer for its actions in the Palestinian territories.

By [Aeyal Gross](#) 19:15 19.01.15

"The same court that after more than 200,000 deaths in Syria didn't see a reason to intervene there, in Libya, or in other places, finds it necessary to 'examine' the most moral army in the world." That was the response of Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman to [last Friday's announcement](#) by the Prosecutor of the...

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/.premium-1.637793>

Analysis / ICC inquiry is a game changer for Israel

The International Criminal Court will consider four issues in examining whether Israel has a case to answer for its actions in the Palestinian territories.

By [Aeyal Gross](#) | Jan. 19, 2015 | 7:15 PM



ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda. Photo by [Wikimedia Commons](#)

"The same court that after more than 200,000 deaths in Syria didn't see a reason to intervene there, in Libya, or in other places, finds it necessary to 'examine' the most moral army in the world." That was the response of Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman to [last Friday's announcement](#) by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, that they would be opening a preliminary examination of the situation in Palestine.

Given that the ICC in 2011 issued arrest warrants for Saif al-Islam Gadhafi, the son of the deposed Libyan leader, and Libyan intelligence chief Abdullah Senussi, Lieberman is either exhibiting woeful ignorance or not telling the truth.

With regard to Syria, it would behoove the foreign minister to learn the rules of the ICC's jurisdiction, which can stem from one of three instances: A country where crimes were allegedly committed joins the court or consents to jurisdiction; a country whose citizens allegedly committed the crimes joins the court or agrees to a judgment; or a case is referred by the United Nations Security Council.

While the Security Council referred the case of Libya to the ICC, it did not do so in Syria's case, which is why the court has no jurisdiction to intervene.

In the Israeli-Palestinian case, jurisdiction stems from the consent to judgment by a state in which the crimes were allegedly committed – Palestine. (While Israel doesn't recognize it, a state by that name is recognized by international institutions.)

The decision on Palestine's status by Bensouda is significantly different than that of her predecessor in April 2012. The previous prosecutor, Luis Moreno-

Ocampo, thought there were doubts as to whether Palestine was a state, and noted, *inter alia*, the importance of the United Nations' position on this point.

Recognition of Palestinian state

From the moment in November 2012 that the UN General Assembly recognized Palestine as a non-member state (its previous status was non-state observer), it was clear that the current prosecutor would have difficulty not accepting Palestine as a state, and it is now recognized as the 123rd state to join the court.

The UN secretary-general, the president of the ICC Assembly of States Parties and the court registrar have all recognized the Palestinian affiliation, and so did the prosecutor. Now the gap between the Israeli and international stance is becoming eminently clear.

Palestine cannot be accepted as a UN member state because that requires the recommendation of the Security Council – which the United States would veto. But there's no such veto in the General Assembly, and the ICC is not a UN body; nor is it subordinate to the Security Council. The General Assembly and the ICC have proven to be effective mechanisms to bypass the hegemony, fortified by their veto, the Americans have in the Security Council. According to the ICC constitution, however, the Security Council may ask that the court not deal with a specific issue for 12 months, and to renew such a request.

It should be noted that the ICC prosecutor is in the midst of conducting preliminary examinations against numerous countries. These include claims of torture by British security forces in Iraq and by U.S. security forces in Afghanistan. There is an examination of Russia over alleged crimes committed in Georgia. One can, of course, doubt whether the prosecutor will ultimately want to start up with those countries, but it's clear that at this stage, Israel is hardly exceptional.

What will Bensouda consider during her inquiry? First would be whether the court indeed has jurisdiction, which seems to be the case since Palestine is a recognized state that has consented to a judgment.

Genuine investigation

The second would be the principle of complementarity, which means the court will not deal with the matter if a relevant state is conducting a genuine investigation of the issue. In this context, assessing the objectivity of the investigations Israel is conducting into the harm done to Gazan civilians during Operation Protective Edge last summer will be critical: Only an independent

investigation – not one being done to shield Israelis from prosecution in The Hague – will be considered genuine. Also, while the complementarity issue is relevant to investigating Protective Edge, it isn't relevant to another alleged crime the prosecutor may examine: that of transfer of part of the civilian population into occupied territory. Since the settlements are government policy, it's clear that complementarity won't apply there.

The third consideration is the gravity of the events. This is why the ICC prosecutor closed the investigation into the killing of civilians on the Gaza-bound aid flotilla in 2010, a case that reached the ICC because the Mavi Marmara ship, where the 10 deaths occurred, was registered in the Comoro Islands, which referred the case to the court.

The picture is different, of course, with regard to Palestine, which will bring much broader issues to the court's attention.

The fourth and final issue is whether considerations of justice justify continuing the investigation. This allows the prosecutor to take into account the positions of the victims, international organizations, and more – although the prosecutor's office has clarified in the past that only in extraordinary circumstances would considerations of justice lead to the closing of a case.

In any event, examining all four considerations is likely to take a long time.

If, after examining all these considerations, the prosecutor thinks there are grounds to move forward, she will then have to examine whether there is a reasonable basis for concluding that crimes were committed. If there is such a basis, the real investigation will begin.

Such an investigation might be conducted both against Israelis – regarding civilian casualties in Gaza and in connection to the settlements – but also against Palestinians responsible for attacks on Israeli civilians.

Even if charges are filed against Israelis, they could not actually be tried unless they were extradited to the court, the chances of which are extremely small.

However, there is no doubt that the rules of the game have changed. Israelis and Palestinians alike are coming, for the first time, under the jurisdiction of an international criminal tribunal. If the foreign minister is surprised, it's probably because he hasn't yet internalized that Israel's legal stance regarding a variety of issues is very far from the internationally accepted positions.

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacydefense/.premium-1.637793>

Netanyahu to launch media campaign against ICC
PM took decision despite specific recommendation by Foreign Ministry not to directly attack

International Criminal Court, Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda.

By [Barak Ravid](#) | Jan. 19, 2015 | 1:58 AM



PM Benjamin Netanyahu at the launch of Likud's election campaign, Jan. 5, 2015. Photo by Dudu Bachar

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has decided to launch a media campaign directed against the International Criminal Court in The Hague and its Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, according to sources at the Prime Minister's office. Netanyahu took this decision despite a specific recommendation by the Foreign Ministry not to refer to the prosecutor and court in negative terms and not to attack them directly.

Over the weekend Bensouda announced that the court would [begin a preliminary investigation](#) of the "situation in Palestine".

Palestinian membership in the court only takes effect on April 1 but the Palestinians requested the invoking of article 12.3. Under this clause a non-member state can request that the Court's authority be provided for specific cases pertaining to that state. The Palestinians asked the Court to extend its authority to the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Jerusalem starting on June 13, the day after the murder of the [three Israeli teenagers](#) by Palestinian terrorists near Hebron.

Prime Minister Netanyahu convened a meeting at his office on Sunday, which included Defense Minister Ya'alon and other senior officials from the Defense, Foreign and Justice Ministries.

A senior official at the Prime Minister's bureau said that a decision was made to take action to foil the Court Prosecutor's decision to launch the preliminary investigation.

Netanyahu believes that Bensouda's decision indicates that she is hostile to Israel. "The whole purpose of this move is to deny Israel its right to defend itself and to tie its hands in its fight against terror" said the senior official after the meeting.

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacydefense/.premium-1.637807>



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Anti-Semitism / Israel Divestment

Hamas MP Marwan Abu Ras:

[The Jews' Conspiracies and Treachery Led to the Holocaust](#)

Hamas Official: The Jews' Conspiracies and Treachery Led To the Holocaust



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMy6Zb9KI1k>

(Hamas MP Marwan Abu Ras) – France, which leads the offense against the Prophet Muhammad in our times, sends thousands of tons of shells [to Israel]. Germany, which wants to make amends for its historical sin toward the Jews, does so at our expense, as if through us it will atone for its sins against the Jews.

How is it our fault? What did we have to do with your burning of the Jews? Were the Jews burned for no fault of their own? Their conspiracies and treachery are what led to their being burned. They conspired against all

people – even against those who were benevolent toward them. They stabbed in the back even those who were good to them. They command no good and forbid no evil. Germany knows this full well. It is, therefore, the West that supplies this illegitimate, foundling, so-called "state" with weapons of destruction.

<http://weaselzippers.us/213581-hamas-official-the-jews-conspiracies-and-treachery-led-to-the-holocaust/>

Hamas lawmaker slams Germany and West for arming Israel at Palestinians' expense because of their guilt.

Jewish "conspiracies and treachery" led to the Holocaust, a Hamas MP said in a recent speech translated by MEMRI on Monday.

In a speech aired on Hamas's Al-Aqsa TV on January 23, Hamas MP Marwan Abu Ras charged that Germany supports Israel to the detriment of the Palestinians in order to "to make amends for its historical sin toward the Jews."

He attacked Germany and the West for arming Israel at Hamas's expense.

"How is it our fault? What did we have to do with your burning of the Jews? Were the Jews burned for no fault of their own?" he queried.

"Their conspiracies and treachery are what led to their being burned. Their deception and plots against humanity led to their being burned. They conspired against all people - even against people who were benevolent toward them," he said.

"They stabbed in the back even those who were good to them. They command no good and forbid no evil. Germany knows this full well. It is, therefore, the West that supplies the illegitimate, foundling, so-called "state" with weapons of destruction," Abu Ras added.

<http://www.ipost.com/ArabIsraeliConflict/Hamas-MP-Jewish-treachery-and-conspiracies-led-to-the-Holocaust-390465>

Middle East Monitor - The Latest from the Middle East

Lieberman says tax money will be transferred after Abbas resigns

Thursday, 15 January 2015 16:28



File photo of Israeli foreign minister, Avigdor Lieberman

The Israeli foreign minister, Avigdor Lieberman, has lashed out at Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas for submitting a request to join the International Criminal Court (ICC).

"What happened, especially in the last month, has crossed all of the red lines. Another attempt to pass the unilateral decision in the Security Council on the establishment of a Palestinian state and their joining the International Criminal Court in The Hague leaves us no choice but to act against Abbas," Lieberman was quoted as saying during a meeting with Israeli ambassadors in Jerusalem.

Lieberman called on the Israeli government to continue withholding Palestinian tax money until Abbas is removed from power. "We must not allow the money that is frozen for the Palestinians to 'thaw' after a short period of time as it has in the past. This time, we must make it clear that the money will be transferred only after Abbas is gone," he said.

He also welcomed US Congress initiatives calling for punitive measures against Palestine as a result of its joining the ICC, including closing the Palestinian delegation in Washington and shutting off US aid.

"After Annapolis, we needed to come to the conclusion that Abbas is not a partner for peace, but rather an obstacle. He uses rhetoric against conventional terror but facilitates political terrorism. The recent initiatives cannot be defined as anything but political terrorism. If we are talking seriously about a political process, we first need to get rid of Abbas in Ramallah and destroy the Hamas regime in Gaza. Without these two things, all of our efforts are just talk," added Lieberman.

Remarking on last week's attacks against Charlie Hebdo and a kosher supermarket in Paris, Lieberman said that, "Most of the conversations, around the world and in France, were regarding freedom of expression, on extremism, on Islamophobia, and not on anti-Semitism, and this is very worrying, especially following the terror

attacks in Toulouse and the Jewish Museum in Brussels. We need to stop being so politically correct and we must start telling the truth. It is the same classic hatred of Jews, just the modern version; and murderous anti-Semitism is the main foundation of radical Islam."

Lieberman slammed Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for remarks criticising Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for his participation in Paris's anti-terrorism rally on Sunday. "Even the European states that remain silent when Erdogan speaks out against Israel, calling our country a terrorist state, contribute to the murderous hatred against Jews in Europe," he said. "A Europe with a neighbourhood thug like Erdogan is bringing the region back to the reality of the 1930s."

Comments

Please respect and abide by our [Community Guidelines](#) when leaving comments.

[The following comments were deleted soon after publication - ed. A.I.]



[Naseem Sarwar](#) · [The Old School Of Hard Knocks](#)

Israeli swine's are lieing murdering basterd's. It's very unfortunate a few were hiding behind fake wall and in sewers and escaped Hitler's SS very unfortunate now look at what we have to live with. So so sad HAIL HITLER

[Fredrick Toben](#)

Naseem Sarwar: Your comment is a nonsense comment and quite unhelpful in proposing a solution to the tragedy facing Palestine. If you need to invoke Adolf Hitler, for whatever reason, then you should suggest to the Palestinians that they adopt National Socialist money policies: disconnect from external funding dependence and generate autark policies that enable a development of each individual's full potential through creative hard work. After all, that was the true meaning of the phrase: ARBEIT MACHT FREI. So, be positive and thank Lieberman for withholding money to the Palestinians - and encourage the Palestinians to develop their own financial system where there is then no debt as their own money supply is created without having to pay interest, and where the principles of usury are criminalised. Perhaps you can become a light unto the Palestinian nation by making this suggestion to them, and stop begging the outside world for money.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/middle-east/16373-lieberman-says-tax-money-will-be-transferred-after-abbas-resigns>

Paris terror sparks new push to bolster freedom of speech in Australia

Heath Aston and Latika Bourke, January 13, 2015 - 10:45AM

The Abbott government is facing calls to bolster free speech in Australia in response to the massacre at French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* by Islamist terrorists.

A day after world leaders joined two million people marching through Paris in support of peace and freedom

of expression, key government and crossbench senators renewed demands that the government fulfil its abandoned pre-election promise to wind back protections in the Racial Discrimination Act.

The current law allows for the prosecution of people who espouse views that "offend, insult and humiliate" on

racial and ethnic grounds – most notably conservative columnist Andrew Bolt, who was sued in 2011 by a group of light-skinned Aborigines for suggesting they were not genuine Aboriginal people.



Thousands gather in Paris for a solidarity march with victims of the Charlie Hebdo massacre. The attack has sparked new calls to bolster the right to free speech in Australia. Photo: Getty Images

On Monday, Liberal senator Cory Bernardi said the government had been "bullied" out of amending the act, while NSW crossbencher David Leyonhjelm said the *Charlie Hebdo* atrocity should be a "wake up call to anyone who thinks you can have a little bit of free speech".

He said preventing free speech through legal means and "Islamist pricks shooting journalists" were very different things but "two sides of the same coin" nonetheless.

In response to a public outcry led by ethnic groups, the government abandoned plans to amend Section 18C and 18D of the Racial Discrimination Act last year, saying it was more important to have the Muslim community on "Team Australia" and on side with tougher anti-terror laws.

Acting Prime Minister Warren Truss on Monday ruled out any renewed move to change the law. "We should be bold and speak out about the things we want to speak out about but we can do that without changing section 18C. The government's come to a decision in relation to that issue and we're not proposing to change."

But the outpouring of sympathy for the staff of *Charlie Hebdo* will give new impetus to a private member's bill co-sponsored by Senator Leyonhjelm, crossbencher Bob Day, Senator Bernardi and his fellow Liberal Dean Smith which would largely effect the changes the government shied away from implementing.

The matter has once again split the Human Rights Commission, with Commissioner Tim Wilson, a Liberal appointee, backing Senator Bernardi's push. "Now is the time for a sensible and constructive debate on how this [law] should be reformed to reverse restrictions on insulting and offensive speech," he told Fairfax Media. "*Charlie Hebdo* could not have been published in Australia."

Mr Wilson has been travelling around the country hosting forums on free speech and said there was very little division between those who want race hate protections and those who favour unfettered freedom of speech.

But Race Discrimination Commissioner Tim Soutphommasane questioned whether a cartoon causing religious offence could be covered by the Racial Discrimination Act as Islam is not a race. "If something racially offends someone they are free to make a complaint under the legislation but even then there is still free speech exemption under 18d [of the act] which protect artistic work or fair comment," he said. "Free speech is a fundamental human right but it is not an absolute right."

The free market think tank, the Institute of Public Affairs, said on Tuesday that *Charlie Hebdo* could not exist in Australia. "Leaders from around the world have united to defend the right of publications like *Charlie Hebdo* to publish content that is offensive to some," said Simon Breheny, director of the Legal Rights Project at the IPA. "But a publication such as *Charlie Hebdo* would struggle to survive in Australia, due to laws that censor offensive, insulting, humiliating and intimidating speech. "Section 18C could be used against the publishers of cartoons that satirise figures based on their race or ethnicity. Content not caught by section 18C would almost certainly be censored by current state religious vilification laws, which are specifically designed to target the kind of content published in *Charlie Hebdo*.

"The attack on *Charlie Hebdo* is an attack on freedom of expression. And as Prime Minister Tony Abbott rightly noted in response to this atrocity, 'freedom of expression is the cornerstone of a free society'. "The Abbott government should seek to put the Prime Minister's words into action by repealing existing Australian laws that restrict free speech, starting with section 18C."

A number of migrant community leaders and Prime Minister Tony Abbott's adviser on indigenous affairs Warren Mundine called for no changes on Monday.

But Senator Bernardi said the government had been bullied into backing away from changes, saying "the time for being bullied is over – we cannot negotiate with the intolerant". "Let's fight for fundamental freedoms and reject those who will pursue aims that are at odds with that," he said.

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten called on Senator Bernardi to stop using the Paris attacks to "justify divisive debates in Australia". "I think it's distasteful and is pathetic that even before the dust is settled and families are still mourning their lost ones in Paris, that we see an Abbott government MP trying to turn the tragedy into a domestic political issue in Australia," he said. "We haven't even had the funerals yet."

Renewed debate on the Racial Discrimination Act will be a headache for some Liberals in marginal seats with large migrant populations. Craig Laundy who holds the western Sydney seat of Reid on the slimmest of margins was forced to break ranks to oppose Attorney-General George Brandis' original plan as a result of immense pressure from within his electorate.

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/paris-terror-sparks-new-push-to-bolster-freedom-of-speech-in-australia-20150112-12mmv4.html>

Charlie Hebdo attack prompts renewed calls for race-hate law changes in Australia



Latika Bourke,

National political reporter, January 12, 2015

World leaders honour attack victims

World leaders gather in Paris to march the city's streets, as over a million people show solidarity against militant violence that shook the nation.

The deadly terror attack waged on the Paris headquarters of the French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* has prompted renewed calls to revive abandoned plans to change Australia's race-hate laws.

The former NSW Solicitor-General Michael Sexton says those advocating free speech in the wake of last week's Paris attacks should also support the right of media organisations like *Charlie Hebdo* to print material which can insult or offend.

Currently, under [Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act](#) it is unlawful to "offend, insult, humiliate" a person or group of people on the basis of race, colour or ethnic origin.



"Let's fight for fundamental freedoms and reject those who will pursue aims that are at odds with that": Liberal senator Cory Bernardi. Photo: Alex Ellinghausen

"The journalists in Paris were killed because they published offensive material," Mr Sexton wrote in News Corp on Monday. "They defenders of Section 18C no doubt deplore what happened but they would not approve of the publication of offensive cartoons."

Section 18C was used successfully against conservative columnist Andrew Bolt in 2011 over a column he wrote in 2009 in which he accused a group of Aborigines of

seeking advantage because of their skin colour. The judge found the piece was likely to have "offended, insulted, humiliated or intimidated" those named.

In 2012, Tony Abbott vowed to repeal the section, which he labelled a "hurt feelings test" in a speech to the free market think tank Institute of Public Affairs.

Soon after being elected the Abbott government revealed plans to change the the act, [removing the words "offend, insult and humiliate".](#)

But after an outcry from ethnic groups, the Prime Minister later abandoned the plans saying [it was more important to get Muslim groups on board with new anti-terror laws.](#)

Family First Senator Bob Day subsequently introduced [a bill into the Senate that, if passed, would remove the words "offend" and "insult" from the Act.](#)

The bill was co-sponsored by crossbencher, Liberal Democrat David Leyonhjelm and two Liberal senators: Dean Smith and Cory Bernardi.

But there are many Liberals, including the prominent Western Sydney MP Craig Laundy, who represent multicultural seats and oppose change.

Senator Bernardi told Fairfax Media on Monday [people were "bullied" out of following through with the original plan to repeal the Act](#) but "the time for being bullied is over - we cannot negotiate with the intolerant. Let's fight for fundamental freedoms and reject those who will pursue aims that are at odds with that," he said. However, Acting Prime Minister Warren Truss on Monday said race-hate laws don't need to be changed for people to speak their minds about issues they feel are important. "We should be bold and speak out about the things we want to speak out about but we can do that without changing section 18C," Mr Truss told AAP. "The government's come to a decision in relation to that issue and we're not proposing to change."

On the weekend, Mr Abbott said ["we have to be prepared to call things as we see them".](#) "Of course from time to time people will be upset, offended, insulted, humiliated," he told Sydney Radio 2UE. "As a politician I sometimes pick up the paper and think, 'My God, this is so unfair!' but it is all part of a free society," he said. "Sure, we would like it to be polite but where it is not, so be it, because in the end the cornerstone of progress is free speech," he said.

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/charlie-hebdo-attack-prompts-renewed-calls-for-racehate-law-changes-in-australia-20150112-12m7d6.html>

Was Terrorist Attack False Flag on France?

By Dave Gahary —JANUARY 20, 2015 AFP



• France puts itself in the bull's eye over pro-Palestine policy.

Suspicion is growing in the alternative media that the January 7, 2015 attacks on the Paris headquarters of the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* did not unfold the way the mainstream media would like us all to believe. Many knowledgeable sources are questioning whether or not France is being targeted by Israel since its lower house last month voted to recognize Palestine, which allowed the occupied state to become part of the International Criminal Court, with the power to hold the Zionist state responsible for genocide.

An attack ostensibly committed by radical Muslims for Islam could go a long way to turn back the gains made by Palestine for official recognition. Around a month

before France's December 2 vote to recognize the state of Palestine, Sweden did the same on October 30. In fact, an enraged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned that it would be a "[grave mistake](#)" if the French parliament recognized Palestinian statehood. Those knowledgeable with Israel's national intelligence agency, Mossad, and their involvement in false flag operations, [point to recent events](#) that have the hallmark of the agency's modus operandi. A [false flag](#) is a covert operation that appears to have been perpetrated by someone or something other than those who actually committed it.

In 2011 in Norway, the youth wing of the Labor Party "was poised to impose a complete blockade on Israel," when the entire leadership of the party was ostensibly massacred by lone nut Anders Breivik. In 2013, Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur Tribunal found Israel guilty of genocide, and a few months later, Malaysian planes began to mysteriously fall from the sky.

Several other anomalies of the alleged shooting are drawing the attention of those skeptical of the official version of events, including the professional, military-style fashion the alleged shooters employed, given that one of the named assassins was an alcohol-imbibing pizza delivery boy. Another incongruity was that an identity card of one of the alleged shooters had been conveniently left in the getaway car, similar to the 9-11 ringleader Mohammad Atta's pristine passport being found on the WTC rubble. Finally, there was the purported suicide of Helric Fredou, a policeman "tasked with investigating the family of one of the victims."

Paris, with a population of 6.5 million, is the fifth largest city in the European Union behind London, Berlin, Madrid and Rome, with around 25% of its inhabitants identifying themselves as Muslim. Throughout the entire country of France, it is estimated that Muslims account for around 10% of its 66 million residents, although the French government doesn't have the right to ask direct questions about religion.

Multiple Investigators Point Finger at Israel

• Who benefited from massacre in Paris?

As more evidence and analysis of the alleged January 7 attack on the Paris headquarters of the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* begin to pour in from across the alternative news universe, it's looking more and more like a Mossad, Israel's national intelligence agency, false flag operation, where a criminal act is pinned on someone or something other than those who actually committed it.

It has been well-documented over the past several decades by American Free Press and its forerunner *The Spotlight* that Israel and its intelligence operatives are at the vanguard of these types of operations. As Michael Collins Piper wrote for this newspaper [in September, 2013](#), "the use of "false flags" by Israel's Mossad to cover up its role in worldwide assassination conspiracies and other criminal activity had been utilized time and again: 'Arabs,' 'radical Muslims,' 'the Mafia,' 'right-wing extremists,' and even environmentalists, among others, have repeatedly taken the fall for crimes committed by the Mossad or carried out under its coordination." In fact, explains Piper, "the use of 'false flag' operations by Israel and its Mossad has been documented repeatedly since the Jewish State first came into being."

From the Lavon Affair in July 1954, where libraries of the United States Information Service in Cairo and

Alexandria, Egypt were bombed by Egyptian Jews working for Israeli intelligence to convince Egyptian President Nasser that "the attacks were carried out by militant Egyptian Muslim fundamentalists angry at Nasser's friendly relations with the U.S. and Britain," to Israel's involvement in the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., most effectively analyzed by AFP's own Victor Thorn in his masterpiece [Made in Israel: 9-11 and the Jewish Plot Against America](#), the Zionist state's fingerprints are all over these events.

[Israel false flag watchers](#) are speculating that the Paris attacks were precipitated by the December 2 vote by France's lower house to recognize the State of Palestine (339-151), which would enable the occupied state to become part of the International Criminal Court, with the power to hold the Zionist state responsible for genocide, and redraw the boundaries of the occupier to pre-1967 lines.

Similar catastrophic events quickly followed on the heels of other countries' decisions to finally recognize the beleaguered Palestinians, who have been psychologically and physically abused by Israel for nearly 70 years.

The evidence is clear that in 1992 Israel attacked its own embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina and in 1994 a Jewish Community Center "because Argentina had cooperated with Iran in the development of the peaceful use of nuclear energy." The March, 2011 Fukushima nuclear plant disaster in Japan followed that country's support for Palestinian statehood, as did the July, 2011 massacre of members of the youth wing of Norway's Labor Party, who were "poised to impose a complete blockade on Israel." In 2013, Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur Tribunal found Israel guilty of genocide, and a few months later, Malaysian planes began to mysteriously fall from the sky.

But why, those knowledgeable about Israel's involvement in false flags feel, with France taking measures decisively sympathetic to Islam would Muslim zealots suddenly choose this moment to massacre French citizens, "an act that would certainly turn French public opinion against Muslims and in favor of Israel?"

The Paris event bears many of the hallmarks of an Israeli false flag operation, including possible use of actors, a scripted shootout, a videotaped execution of a policeman showing no blood, detailed knowledge of the magazine's security and the timing of its staff meeting, the road being cordoned off to keep it traffic-free, [an Israeli news editor](#) ready to photograph the event from a roof no less, a perfect escape by the alleged perpetrators whose true identity is still unknown, with one of them leaving his ID, jihadist flags and Molotov cocktails in the getaway car, and the two suspects, under security watch for previous terrorist activities, shot dead, one of whom was a pizza delivery boy who conducted an unobstructed, professional, military-style assault in broad daylight in one of the world's most heavily-policed cities.

Then, two days later, to top off the event and create sympathy for Jews across the world, radical Muslims takes 14 people hostage in a [Kosher grocery store](#) not too far from the magazine's headquarters, execute four of them, with one of the alleged killed by police and another escaping, "despite being surrounded by hundreds of police and security personnel with the whole district locked down."

Many of those outside the truth community believe, or want to believe, that the event unfolded as reported by

the mainstream media. One such figure is longtime Koran-burning, Muslim-baiter Pastor Terry Jones of Florida, who runs a ministry and a website, "[Stand Up America Now](#)," whose core belief is that Islam is not compatible with Western ideals and values. On January 15, this reporter conducted an exclusive interview with Jones, to discuss his being targeted by Islamic assassins. Jones receives local police and FBI protection around the clock.

"We have received several hundred death threats, plus there's a terrorist organization out of Pakistan that's put a reward on my life for \$6.5 million, and I am on the al Qaeda hit list, the No. 2 person on it, and the only American," Jones explained.

Dave Gahary, a former submariner in the U.S. Navy, is the host of AFP's 'Underground Interview' series.
<http://americanfreepress.net/?p=22268>

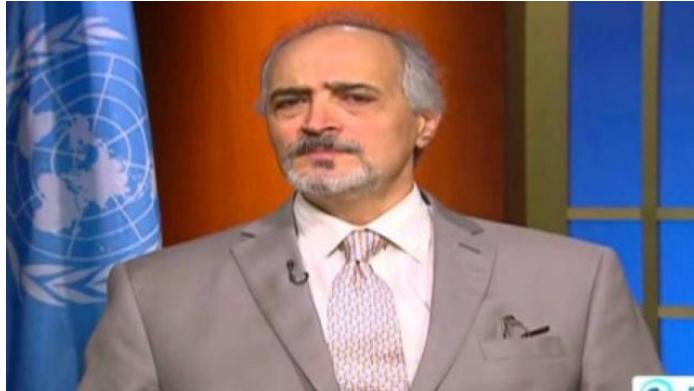
PM Netanyahu to launch media campaign against ICC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvrxFsqa2Gc>

The Syrian Ambassador's Complaint

By Eva Bartlett, [Consortium News](#) - Posted by [Editor](#) on January 19, 2015

Ambassador al-Ja'afari: I'm sure you're aware of the alarming reports of Da'esh coming from Camp Bucca in Iraq, the famous American prison in Iraq. Al-Baghdadi, the caliph of Da'esh, was at Bucca. He was released by the Americans, not by the Syrian president. The men who committed the massacre in Paris, they were fighting in Syria and came back to France. France allowed them to go to Syria, where they killed scores of people, and in Iraq. Then they came back, normally, and the French police let them in. The same terrorists. They are good when they kill Syrians, and they are bad when they kill the French.



Dr. Bashar al-Ja'afari, Ambassador of the Permanent Representative Mission of Syria to the UN in New York.

On Jan. 8, in his sparsely-furnished New York City office, the Syrian Arab Republic Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dr. Bashar al-Ja'afari, sat down with *Al-Akhbar* for an interview. The veteran diplomat, who has held his position at the UN since 2006, and lives restricted to a 25-mile radius of New York City, has much more to say than the half hour allowed. Defiant as always, he discussed the challenges he faces at the UN, explained why he thinks the organization has lost its way, and censured Western states and media for their hostility toward the Syrian government.

First, however, we discussed the exhibition of Aleppo-based Syrian photographer Hagop Vanesian, titled "My Homeland," which opened the same day at the United Nations headquarters.

Al-Akhbar: How did this exhibition come about?

Ambassador al-Ja'afari: This is the first breakthrough we've had at the level of the United Nations since the beginning of what is commonly called "the Syrian crisis." For four years, I have been trying very hard to do something inside the UN. Every time we attempted to do something, we were confronted by a huge amount of bureaucracy, excuses, apologies (sometimes), denial of our rights (sometimes), negligence, etc.

I'm very glad that we finally succeeded in organizing this exhibition — which doesn't address the whole, dramatic picture

of the Syrian crisis, but only focuses on what happened to and in Aleppo, the second-largest city in Syria, after the capital, Damascus. It's about Syria, it's about the Syrian people. It's not about the Syrian government or the Syrian opposition or the Syrian coalition thugs or Da'esh (ISIS). It's about Syria, about what happened in Aleppo, through undeniable photos.



Photographer Hagop Vanesian — opens personal exhibition called "My Homeland" at the UN, in New York

The exhibition is the work of a highly-professional Syrian photographer of Armenian origin, who is himself a citizen of Aleppo. He is an eyewitness to the terrorist rampage that hit this beautiful city, Aleppo, which has always been a cradle of civilization. He is suffering greatly. He lost his home, his family. **He will show only 26 photos, but he has an archive of thousands of photos. He has complete archives of Aleppo, before and after, building by building, how it was before and how it became.**

AA: Why do you think that the UN has allowed this exhibition now? You mentioned you'd wanted to sponsor exhibitions in the past but hadn't been allowed.

Ambassador al-Ja'afari: The Saudi mission, the French mission, the Danish mission, the British mission, the German mission... they have countered Syrian government activities in the UN. Every time we complained about it they said, "You can

do the same." Today we said, "We have an exhibition." They were cornered. They couldn't say no (chuckles), because they kept telling me "You can do the same." **We are not attacking Germany or France or others, we are showing the reality in our country.**

AA: An Associated Press article that has been running in the mainstream papers slammed this exhibit; citing an official in the opposition Syrian National Coalition calling the photographer a "propagandist."



A photo exhibition titled "My Homeland" by photographer Hagop Vanesian was opened at the United Nations headquarters in New York

Ambassador al-Ja'afari: This is what they are good at. They don't look at the picture in its entirety, in its comprehensiveness. They don't address what the photographs are talking about objectively. They have prejudices, wrong preconceived ideas about what's taking place in Syria. They start with wrong ideas and end with wrong ideas. It's really unfortunate, because here we are not talking about just some gallery in New York. We are talking about the United Nations headquarters!

We are speaking the language of the UN: territorial integrity of states, political independence of states, sovereignty of states, equal membership of states. All these sacrosanct terms are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. We are not starting from scratch or re-inventing new language. We are in full harmony with the UN language and the UN provisions of the Charter.

Others are not, because they don't belong to the UN world. They [the media] are, of course, against the Syrian government. They are against anything that might explain positively, or objectively speaking [the Syrian crisis], to the so-called "international community" — I don't believe in this word. They have been falsifying facts, spreading rumours, making propaganda against the Syrian government for years. And they are living off this criticism, it has become a source of their livelihood, their own welfare. The more you criticize the Syrian government, the more money you get from the petrodollar countries, the more visas you get from Western world, the more you go to five-star hotels, the more you appear on TV screens as dignitaries of the Syrian people, as representatives — exclusive representatives — of the Syrian people.

Anybody who opposes this exhibition belongs to a political current opposing the truth. Any honest, objective Syrian who loves his homeland, who says he feels sick because of what is going on in Syria, should have a great interest in showing what is going on in Syria. All Syrians should push for organizing more exhibitions, not only at the United Nations but all over the world, to explain what Da'esh and al-Nusra Front and the other terrorist groups sponsored by Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey, are doing. The Turkish intelligence is deeply involved in sponsoring Da'esh, and in stealing our plants and factories.

AA: You are the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic at the United Nations, and Syria is an important subject in the news. Are you asked to appear on major TV channels?

Ambassador al-Ja'afari: Mainly, I address the media at the UN, at the stakeout, which is the podium for diplomats, for ambassadors. I also go on TV from time to time. But to be honest, when they record interviews, I speak for 20 minutes, then they show only 20 seconds, 10 seconds, whatever fits their agenda. **You saw what happened with Anderson Cooper,**

Christiane Amanpour, and others. They always try to manipulate the facts, and they do their best to deviate from the direction of the conversation into little, negative, details, so that the audience will have a negative idea of what I am saying. Simultaneously, as I am speaking, they show a negative video clip on what's going on in Syria, accusing the government of doing so and so. Which means that they are indirectly telling viewers that this ambassador is not telling the truth. You see how they manipulate?



Christiane Amanpour, Syria conflict.

Christiane Amanpour was lying when she was interviewing me on the so-called chemical weapons. She was lying, not telling the truth at all! This is why I told her, "You know what? You also may be a weapon of mass destruction, because you are poisoning public opinion and deviating from the main points I'm making."

AA: You are now under a 25-mile travel ban, how did they justify imposing this restriction on you?

Ambassador al-Ja'afari: Yes. They didn't give me any reason, they didn't explain anything. They just notified me that from now on, you won't be able to go beyond 25 miles [of New York City's Columbus Circle]. It's an American sovereign decision. I'm an ambassador to the United Nations, not to the United States, so maybe they are taking advantage of that nuance. Of course, it is not justifiable. I have the right to move according to the Vienna Diplomatic Convention. But if they want it this way, let it be.

AA: Prior to this, had you been traveling in the US or elsewhere?

Ambassador al-Ja'afari: Yes. Maybe my activism caused me this trouble.

AA: Your activism consisted of meeting with members of the Syrian-American community?

Ambassador al-Ja'afari: Yes, meeting with them, explaining to them what's going on in Syria. They needed information, they needed to be briefed about what's going on in their homeland. They are all extremely worried, they have families there.

AA: Speaking of traveling, recently, there were reports that you launched an official complaint at the UN regarding US Senator John McCain and other heads of states traveling illegally to Syria and meeting with anti-government fighters.

Ambassador al-Ja'afari: Yes, this is what transpired in the media. I didn't ask to circulate the letter, I wanted it to be shared only by the members of the Security Council, but it was somehow leaked. But I would like to confirm that, yes, I sent a letter drawing the kind attention of the secretary-general and the members of the Security Council to this flagrant and blatant interference in domestic affairs, this violation of our sovereignty, the illegal crossing of our borders. Whenever one of those who cross illegally into Syria gets killed by the terrorists, then the Syrian government is blamed for not protecting him, although they entered Syria illegally. Many journalists have been killed, unfortunately. It is unfortunate, but they are responsible for their own fate. They didn't enter Syria via the Syrian government. We would have protected them. We would have shown them where to go and where not to go. But they had bad intentions. So, many of them got killed, beheaded, kidnapped.

So, indeed, I forwarded this letter with some specific names, even though there are thousands, but we gave just some names. John McCain, an American senator,

goes and meets with Da'esh (ISIS) in Aleppo. In one picture, he was with a man from ISIS. And the other "moderate" criminals.

The American weapons delivered to them ended up in the hands of al-Nusra Front and Da'esh. All these people are "moderate," as you know. Bernard Kouchner, the former French Foreign Minister, entered Syria illegally, too. Can you imagine that? A senator from the USA, a former minister from France, Turkish intelligence... and then they tell you that, "you know what, we are extremely worried about the spread of terrorism."



Senator McCain meeting with Syrian Opposition – photo credit Voltaire.

AA: In UN sessions, your microphone has repeatedly had suddenly "technical difficulties" and been cut, or the video feed has had sudden inexplicable "technical difficulties"...

Ambassador al-Ja'afari: Many times, many times. I have been the only Ambassador at the United Nations since 1945 whose speeches were cut off, or not recorded at all. It has never happened otherwise in UN meetings. Never. Two of my speeches were not recorded. One, under the Chairmanship of the former Qatari ambassador... of course, Qatar. But what adds insult to injury was that Ban Ki-moon himself was at sitting at the podium, and he supported the move taken by the President of the General Assembly. That triggered a very negative reaction from many ambassadors who intervened. The biased position of the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly was obvious from the very first days, thanks to these wrongdoings.

This has been a phenomenon related exclusively to me. Let me elaborate. Every time I speak, for instance, at the Security Council, they choose a bad interpreter who is unable to fully interpret what I am saying. So the people do not get my message. They do it on purpose. One day, I was invited to address the Security Council. I saw one of the Security Council staff members addressing the interpreters. He gave them a hand signal: change. I saw it with my own eyes. So they changed the good interpreter with a poor one, thus ensuring that my political message does not transpire fully.

They do the same things in the General Assembly. The British ambassador cut me off one time while I was speaking. He said "you have exceeded four minutes." I said, "Who gave you the right to fix four minutes? I am a member of a concerned party, and I have the right to explain." To justify his wrongdoing, he also cut off the Iraqi ambassador after me. We were the only two ambassadors speaking at that session, and it was on Syria and Iraq. The issue was on terrorism in Syria and Iraq, and he cut off both of us after four minutes!

The UN has lost its credibility. The UN has lost a lot of the principles of its founding fathers. The UN of today has nothing to do with the UN of the Charter. This is why everybody has forgotten about the Charter; people do not speak of the Charter. They don't speak about sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, equality among members. Now they speak about the rule of law, human rights, the environment — because this is very dear to the heart of the private sector: money — partnerships. Now the Secretary-General is focused on partnerships, because he wants to privatize the United Nations.

The budget of peacekeeping operations is three times higher than the regular budget! Rather than extinguishing the conflicts, and decreasing the number of peacekeeping operations, we have increased the peace-keeping operations. We have right now 36 special political missions, aside from 15 peacekeeping operations. Twenty years ago, we didn't have any special political missions. This is a new phenomenon. By the way, the special political missions and the peace-keeping operations are not in the Charter. These are some of the ways they are deviating from the Charter itself. Together they consume \$7.9 billion per year. And they are solving nothing.

When one of the peacekeeping operations, such as the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force Zone (UNDOF) on the Syrian occupied Golan makes mistakes, they hide it, they don't share the information with the Security Council. **For instance, Israel is dealing with Jabhat al-Nusra (the Nusra Front) right now in the Golan, helping the terrorists and treating their wounded in Israeli hospitals. Israeli TV shows Netanyahu visiting them. Still, the report of the secretary-general denies this fact, and the report of the Secretary-General does not address this fact, does not acknowledge that there is cooperation between Israel and the terrorists in the Golan.**



French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Laurent Fabius addresses the audience May 13, 2014 at The Brookings Institution.

AA: The media accuses President al-Assad of being responsible for Da'esh, and other terrorists. Who do you blame for the proliferation of terrorists in Syria?

Ambassador al-Ja'afari: I'm sure you're aware of the alarming reports of Da'esh coming from Camp Bucca in Iraq, the famous American prison in Iraq. Al-Baghdadi, the caliph of Da'esh, was at Bucca. He was released by the Americans, not by the Syrian president. The men who committed the massacre in Paris, they were fighting in Syria and came back to France. France allowed them to go to Syria, where they killed scores of people, and in Iraq. Then they came back, normally, and the French police let them in. **The same terrorists. They are good when they kill Syrians, and they are bad when they kill the French.**

In 2012, Laurent Fabius, the French minister of foreign affairs, said himself that the jihadists — he didn't call them terrorists then — were doing well. The French minister! A permanent member of the Security Council in charge of maintaining international peace and security. He described their dirty actions by saying that they are doing well. The French minister of the interior, who is now the prime minister of France — the one who was crying over the bodies of the people killed in Paris — what did he say? At that time, the French ministers were competing to see who could go furthest in their animosity towards President al-Assad. **"He should step down; he should go; he should resign."** It was à la mode then. The French minister of the interior said at the time, "I cannot do anything to prevent and stop French jihadists from going to make jihad in Syria." He cannot, as minister of the interior, stop the terrorists coming from France from going to Syria to kill Syrians! Through Turkey, of course. **Why? Because freedom of speech, freedom of what... freedom of lies. He "cannot stop them."**

Now, he can. Now, he knows the outcome of what he did. We warned him, in our statements: don't play with the terrorists, they will come back to you. They thought they were big powers and exempt, immune against this terrorist disease.

It is said publicly today that the Americans with the Turks will start training the terrorists in Turkey in spring. It has become public, no shame whatsoever. The Jordanians are doing the same, in secret camps in the northern part of Jordan, run by the French and the British and the Americans. The same thing in Saudi Arabia. The same thing in Doha and Qatar. This is scandalous behaviour.

That's why I say, there's no United Nations anymore, it's over. Multilateral diplomacy is not working, it's being manipulated by the powerful. This is why they want to privatize the United Nations, so that the influential donors can control the decision-making mechanisms, without giving a damn about the provisions of the Charter.

We are member states, and we are here based on this famous concept and principle of equal sovereignty. All that has disappeared, it's about business now. Can you believe that Saudi Arabia is sponsoring the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre? Can you believe for a second that Qatar is sponsoring the committee for alliance amongst civilizations, the dialogue among cultures and civilizations and religions? They are buying the UN with dirty money.

AA: In reference to Syria's destroyed heritage, US Secretary of State John Kerry has implied that it is America's duty to protect Syria's heritage. What is your take on his statement in light of the US' involvement in the Syrian war?

Ambassador al-Ja'afari: This man is disconnected from reality, totally disconnected. I heard this from an American man

who fought with him in Vietnam. He told me, "This man has always been disconnected." But, he's not the only one.

On the other hand, there are many honest senators and genuine people in Congress who opposed the American administration's plan to attack Syria. There are genuine people, and the American constitution is based on beautiful values. Once applied, that is.



**Article and Images: [Courtesy Veterans News Now](http://www.intifada-palestine.com/2015/01/syrian-ambassadors-complaint/)
<http://www.intifada-palestine.com/2015/01/syrian-ambassadors-complaint/>**

Eva Bartlett is a Canadian freelance journalist and activist who has lived in and written from the Gaza Strip, Syria, and Lebanon. [This interview was [published](#) originally in the English-language edition of Al-Akhbar, a daily newspaper in Beirut.]

More German hatred with a twist:

From Auschwitz survivor to Mengele survivor?

Germans living in the Anglo-sphere came across the expression "to piss" on something, but such expression was quite distasteful because it was foreign to them.

Ask yourself this question: Is it a German custom to spit or urinate on graves? Is it a Jewish practice to spit while walking past a church? What about the artist who called his work "Piss Christ?"

The Auschwitz survivor who adopted the camp chief's grandson
Since meeting in 2013, Mengele survivor Eva Mozes Kor and Rainer Höss have formed a close bond. Together they preach understanding and tolerance

By [Itamar Sharon](#) January 18, 2015, 3:57 am 17

For a Holocaust survivor, meeting the offspring of one's tormenters would be difficult enough. The prospect of developing a close friendship with them, even familial warmth, would seem utterly impossible.

Yet this is just the sort of unlikely relationship struck between a woman who was subjected to horrific Nazi medical experiments at the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp, and the very grandson of that camp's notorious commander, according to [the Vice news website](#).

In 1944, at the age of ten, Romanian-born Eva Mozes Kor was captured by the Nazis and — along with her twin sister — was subjected to savage medical experiments at Auschwitz carried out by Nazi war criminal Dr. Josef Mengele. Mengele, who had a particular interest in twins in his work, is believed to have victimized approximately 1,500 pairs throughout the war. Only around 200 of those pairs survived.

"Throughout the week, the doctors would be giving me a minimum of five injections into my arm. I became very ill," Kor recently recounted to high school students at a lecture in Casper, Wyoming, [according to Oil City](#).

At one point Mengele told her, laughing, that she had only two weeks to live. Her sister, too, was very sick, but both knew that if one died, the other would likely be killed as well.



Auschwitz's Block 10, where Dr. Josef Mengele conducted medical experiments on the camp's inmates (photo credit: CC-BY-SA, VbCrLf, Wikimedia Commons)

"I remember going back to the camp where I remember crawling and fading in and out of consciousness, crawling to get to a water fountain, telling myself, 'I must survive, I must survive,'" she said.

And, miraculously, they did.

In 1995, Kor founded the CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Terre Haute, a small city in western Indiana where she has lived since the 1950s, with the aim of sharing her story with her neighbors. But instead of speaking in anger of her captors, Kor has preached forgiveness.

"I had the power to forgive. No one could give me the power, or take it away from me," Kor, now 80, told Vice last week. "I refused to be a victim, and now I am free."

In 2013, Kor first met Rainer Höss, whose grandfather Rudolf Höss commanded Auschwitz for much of the war and is identified with the decision to use pesticide Zyklon B to kill prisoners in the camp's gas chambers.



Rudolf Höss, the Kommandant of Auschwitz (photo credit: public domain)

Many families of former Nazi war criminals have avoided their past. Some have attempted to bury it, while others deny that any evil was perpetrated at all. But not Rainer Höss. Since finding out the truth of his grandfather's actions, he has become a fierce and vocal critic of his forebear and has sought to learn all that he could of his dark roots.

When his family criticized his choices, Höss cut his ties with them. He has devoted recent years to educating schoolchildren about the dangers of right-wing extremism. What began when his children's teachers asked him to share his story with pupils at their school has now become a full-time job that saw him visit more than 70 schools in Germany in 2013 alone.

After hearing of Kor's story, Höss, 49, contacted her and asked to meet her. He also asked her if she would agree to become his adoptive grandmother. After meeting him, Kor consented.

"I'm proud to be his grandmother," she told Vice. "I admire and love him. He had the need of love from a family he never had."

One million Jews were killed at Auschwitz from 1940 to 1945 along with more than 100,000 non-Jewish Poles, Roma, Soviet prisoners of war, homosexuals and anti-Nazi partisans before the camp was liberated on January 27, 1945.

Rudolf Höss went into hiding after World War II but was captured by the Allies in 1946 and hanged the year after near the infamous Auschwitz crematorium.



Hungarian Jews on the Judenrampe (Jewish ramp) after disembarking from the transport trains at Auschwitz-Birkenau, May 1944. To be sent rechts! – to the right – meant the person had been chosen as a laborer; links! – to the left – meant death in the gas chambers. (Photo credit: From the Auschwitz Album)

Rainer has said in the past that if he knew where his grandfather was buried, he would go to his grave in order to urinate or spit on it. Kor says she has urged him to forgive his grandfather as well as the rest of his family. Only by forgiving your worst enemies can you be truly free, she contends.

"I do argue with him, as I don't always agree with everything he does. But I definitely love him," she said. "There is a real camaraderie and emotional understanding. People from different places who call each other grandma and grandson can give a sign of hope."

Lazar Berman and AFP contributed to this report.
<http://www.timesofisrael.com/the-mencale-survivor-who-adopted-rudolf-hosss-grandson/>

Is Your comment ANTISEMITIC?

From: balder@balder.org
[<mailto:balder@balder.org>]

Sent: Sunday, 18 January 2015 10:49 PM

To: balder@balder.org

Subject: Dutch judges are NOT Charlie Hebdo:
Christian activist Jan Smelt sentenced for
"holocaust denial"

Please let me know if you no longer wish to receive mails from balder.org.

59 years old Christian activist Jan Smelt from Almelo in Holland sentenced for holocaust denial and possibly "upsetting Jews".

Jan Smelt used to be a member of a Christian Zionist group, but changed his mind when he began to find out the truth about Israel and the Jewish Lobby.

The verdict is not final, as a new trial in a higher court is to be expected.

Google translation of newspaper article via blog:
<http://laagland.informe.com/forum/binnenlands-nieuws-f11/ondanks-alle-feiten-ontkennen-van-de-holocaust-mag-niet-t530.html>

A 59 year old man was sentenced to fifty hours of community service and two weeks suspended sentence because he, in an article on a website (boinnk.nl) denies the Holocaust and spoke hurtful and insulting about Jews.

The man had published the article on a Christian website from Zwolle. According to the man Jews were deported in World War II, but the gas chambers did not exist and the number of six million victims is not right. In his story the man wrote that Jews behave superior, have the power in their hands and that the Kristallnacht (Night of broken glass) was nothing compared to what is to be expected yet. A clergywoman read it and reported it to the police. The article was removed from the website in November at the request of the Public Prosecutor of the site.

According to the court the man in the article very offensive and insulting remarks about Jews. "In the article, the Holocaust, Auschwitz and the gas chambers labeled as lies, while it is generally known that murdered millions of Jews were deported and murdered in World War II and", says the court.

"The trivialization and denial of the Holocaust can cause personal suffering for Jews and non-Jews, and may contribute to feelings of unrest in society. The man has committed a criminal offense to serious and reprehensible fact," said the court in its judgment.

Here a slightly corrected Google translation of the text for which Jan Smelt was prosecuted and sentenced.

Source: Official Dutch Justice website

The page to which I am linking also describes the reasoning and thinking of the public prosecutor.

<http://uitspraken.rechtspraak.nl/inziendocument?id=ECLI:NL:RBOVE:2014:6877>

Wednesday, December 24th, 2014 (Article by Jan Smelt published at boink)

"Warning: reading this article may lead Jew worshipers and nobility worshipers into cognitive dissonance. These people are advised not to read and rediscover inner peace clicking THIS REFERENCE.)

When the pogroms begin? They will come a time when the travesty of the Holocaust more into the open. The fury of the Gentiles will be great. Kristallnacht will be another rest day at corpses. No, the Gentiles (= gojim) are not evil creatures with an innate hatred of Jews. They will be justifiably angry, because the Jews have destroyed their economies, have disrupted their societies with feminism and homosexuality and have incited them to war, which resulted in millions of deaths. In addition, they are furious that the Jews at the same time still had the brutality to play the innocent victim in the form of Holocaust victims. The indignation of the Gentiles will

grow and their upcoming anger hangs like a thunderstorm over the experiment of Zionism.

In the meantime, I want to make another attempt at the average Jew, who sees Judaism as a kind of folklore, pointing to their rabbis, who thunderstorm over have called them. Like the members of the Jewish Council in Amsterdam, the normal uitleverden Jews from the Nazis, but himself remained out of reach, the leaders of the Jewish people will play this trick again. They will deliver the ordinary Jews to the fury of the Gentiles. Back in the days of Isaiah deliberated leaders - and mockers - Jerusalem: We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol made a treaty; when the overflowing scourge passes through, it will not reach us, for we have made lies our refuge and falsehood our hiding (RSV trans. Isa. 28, 15)

The standard example of a travesty (Eng. Chutzpah) of a child who killed his father and mother, and then the judge begs for pity, because the orphan's (Michael Hoffman, Judaism's Strange Gods, p. 56). Heath Peoples do not know this kind of brutality and insolence. We have to do with why the Hebrew loanword. Besides, numerous Hebrew loanwords in Dutch are in a precarious atmosphere: barter, steal and excuse (sjacheren, jatten en smoes). The Gentiles were full of pity, when they heard about Auschwitz and the gas chambers. Now they appear not to have existed, they feel rightly that they have been cheated.

So I recommend you Jews from the Netherlands and beyond, to show remorse for these shameless lies. This goes very well against the mentality that the rabbis have taught you. They have stuck you one after another a feather in the ass by saying that you were so much smarter than that stupid Gentiles. That went into it like cake. Einstein was a great example of that superior Jewish intelligence. Then came up with the list of Nobel Prize winners. The rabbis told you that the nations were as stupid as the rear end of a pig. Actually, they were no more than animals. The recently deceased rabbi Ovadja Josel [Ovadia Yosef - translator] compared them openly with donkeys. You could make this wise everything. The Gentiles have the Holocaust lie long time indeed swallowed. But the Gentiles are to catching up. The lie is exposed.

Apart from being indoctrinated as a rabbinic Jew will be very difficult to ask for forgiveness to a Gentile, it will be very difficult for you to be accountable to a Gentile. The Rabbis have taught you that you are appointed as lord of the Gentiles. Ovadja Joseph stated: "We will sit like an effendi ("lord" or "master" in Arabic) and eat (see: Ted Pike, Jewry Mourns DEATH OR" GREATEST "RACIST RABBI). But you are no gentleman in the Netherlands or in Germany or Russia. You are a guest there. It does not have a guest host for the law requires. You'll have to give up your role as Hofjude. This term is by historian Nesta Webster (book, Secret Societies and Subversive

Movements) dug for the Jews that nestle at the courts of kings, the centers of power.

Your rabbis have told you that power and money are important because their "world to come" is a terrestrial globe. The Messiah that the predecessors of the Rabbis, the Pharisees rejected, was Jesus Christ. He said to Pilate that His kingdom was not of this world. The list of rabbinic messiahs is therefore a list of failures. I only mention Bar Kochba in 135 Sjابتaj Tzvi (also: Sabbatai Zevi) in 1966, Menachem Schneerson, deceased in 1994. It's all come to nothing. The Zionist utopia, now in the Middle East is built on the blood of the Arabs and the pennies from Europe and the US, will end in failure.

I understand that it is difficult for you as a Jew to take away from the rabbis, for this you risk 'from the synagogue to be cast'; even if you never come there. In the New Testament describes such a story. A man born blind, who is made seeing by Jesus, is ordered before the Pharisees. They assure him that Jesus is a sinner. He replied: "If it had not come from God, He could do nothing" (John 9.33.). Such logic the Pharisees could not bear. They kicked him out. People who are able to think, do not fit in the synagogue.

The Pharisees and rabbis require blind obedience. Many sincere Jews in the course of time have been excommunicated. There is even reject an entire group, the Kraïeten, who only belief in the Tanakh (Old Testament) and reject the rabbinical Talmud. Excommunication means that you'll have to miss the support of fellow Jews in social life. For example if you would like to be mayor of Groningen, you'll need to do that on their own. The 'Hofjuden' will do no good word for you anymore. It must be said that the rabbis take good care of their followers and reward them handsomely for their rigid discipline.

But the covenant with death will not stand. I quote further from Isaiah:

And I will straighten the measuring line and righteousness the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the lies, and the water will wash away the refuge. "(Isaiah 28.17.)

Other relevant links - use Google translate:

<http://boinnk.nl/blog/84243/uitnodiging-tot-het-bijwonen-van-een-proces-te-almelo-tegen-jan-smelt-endit-a-s-vrijdag-om-11-00-uur-onze-zeer-gewaardeerde-columnist>

Krom is Recht in Almelo. (Wrong is Right)
frissekijk.info/krom-is-recht-in-almelo/

Holland - Popular Jewish journalist Micha Kat: Puncture the gas chamber lie first, then the rest.
blog.balder.org/?p=1290

Holland: Christian Zionist MP Joel Voordewind demands punishment for offending Israel and Jews.
blog.balder.org/?p=1272

Dictatorial proposal in Holland - Public Prosecutor Hirsch Ballin (Bilderberger of Jewish descent - now "Catholic") demands power to close websites.
blog.balder.org/?p=1026

Holland: VVD's Mark Rutte's plea for more freedom of expression in the Netherlands - transcript.
blog.balder.org/?p=698

Holland - Holocaust controversy - former party leader Bolkestein supports Rutte's free speech advocacy.
blog.balder.org/?p=695

Denial of the Holocaust in Holland - The Judicial Aspects.
blog.balder.org/?p=694

Rabid Zionist bigots suppress research on 9/11 because it implicates Israel in the attack The Abdication of Reason and Rationality in Northfield, MN

Posted by [Jim Fetzer](#) on January 17, 2015

<http://www.veteranstoday.com/2015/01/17/the-abdication-of-reason-and-rationality-in-northfield-mn/>

...another fabricator dies, hopefully of shame for telling lies...

Robert Herzstein,

Historian Who Linked a U.N. Leader to Nazi War Crimes, Dies at 75

By SAM ROBERTS FEB. 9, 2015

Robert Herzstein, a historian whose prodigious archival research on behalf of the World Jewish Congress helped uncover [Kurt Waldheim's veiled ties](#) to Nazi war crimes, died on Jan. 24 at a hospice near his home in Columbia, S.C. He was 75.

The cause was multiple myeloma, his partner, Faye Flowers, said.

In 1979, when Mr. Waldheim, then the secretary general of the United Nations, received an honorary doctorate at the University of South Carolina, he was warmly greeted by Professor Herzstein, who taught history there. Seven years later, Professor Herzstein was instrumental in

discovering that Mr. Waldheim was on a list of suspects wanted by the United Nations' own war crimes commission.

"[Kurt Waldheim](#) did not, in fact, order, incite or personally commit what is commonly called a war crime," Professor Herzstein concluded in his book about the investigation. "But this nonguilt must not be confused with innocence. The fact that Waldheim played a significant role in military units that unquestionably committed war crimes makes him at the very least morally complicit in those crimes."

Robert Edwin Herzstein was born on Sept. 26, 1940, in Manhattan. His father, Harold, a lawyer, was Mayor William O'Dwyer's legislative representative in Albany. His mother, Jean, was a homemaker.

He attended the McBurney School and earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from New York University. He taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Carnegie Institute of Technology before joining the University of South Carolina faculty in 1972. He retired as distinguished professor emeritus of history in 2008.

His marriage to Daphne Newman Stassin ended in divorce in 1975.

He wrote two biographies of Henry R. Luce, the Time magazine magnate, but was best known for his Nazi-era scholarship in books that included "Roosevelt and Hitler: Prelude to War," "The War That Hitler Won," "Adolf Hitler and the German Trauma" and "Waldheim: The Missing Years," which was published in 1988.



Robert Herzstein, center, presenting documents linking Kurt Waldheim to Nazi war crimes in 1986. Credit Marilyn K. Yee/The New York Times

In reviewing "Waldheim" for The New York Times Book Review, the novelist Shirley Hazzard, who had written about Mr. Waldheim's past in The New Republic, described the book as "important" but also "at times obtuse and often trivial." She said the secretary general would have most certainly been aware of Nazi atrocities committed in Russia and the Balkans and concluded, "While Mr. Herzstein is probably right in assuming that Mr. Waldheim took no pleasure in such abominations, nothing in his temperament or story suggests he was affronted by them." Mr. Waldheim retired as secretary general in 1981. Four years later, when he was the right-wing People's Party's candidate for the largely ceremonial post of president of Austria, Profil, a leading magazine, published details of his wartime past. On March 4, 1986, The New York Times reported on Mr. Waldheim's wartime service in the Balkans and his prewar Nazi associations. A few weeks later, the World Jewish Congress announced Mr. Herzstein's findings.

Mr. Waldheim said he had never belonged to any Nazi-affiliated groups, but, in fact, he had joined the National Socialist students' league and later enrolled in the Sturmabteilung, the paramilitary Nazi organization of

storm troopers. He served under a general who led the Germans and their Croatian allies in slaughtering more than 60,000 suspected Yugoslav partisans and their families at Kozara, in western Bosnia, in 1942. Mr. Waldheim maintained at first that he had never been there, then said the medal he received for the battle had been handed out "like chocolates" to all German officers. He also served as an officer with a unit that executed thousands of partisans and noncombatants in Montenegro and eastern Macedonia, and killed Allied commandos who had been taken prisoner. For a time he was stationed in Greece, where more than 60,000 Jews were deported to death camps. "I never heard or learned anything of this while I was there," Mr. Waldheim, who was a lieutenant in an intelligence unit, told The Times. But in his book, Professor Herzstein wrote, "It is hard to believe this ambitious young staff officer, whose success had been based in large part on his ability to keep abreast of what was going on, could have failed to notice that most of the Jewish community of Salonika — nearly a third of the city's population — had been shipped off to Auschwitz."

Delving into archives in Washington, London, Belgrade and Vienna, Professor Herzstein found a long paper trail, including personal notes of telephone calls to alert German officials that trains would be needed to deport Italian soldiers in Athens for forced labor. The notes proved that Mr. Waldheim was "an accessory to acts of deportation" and other war crimes, the professor wrote. Mr. Waldheim won his country's presidency in 1986. The following year, the Justice Department barred him from entering the United States after determining that he had "assisted or participated in" the deportation, mistreatment and execution of civilians and Allied soldiers in [World War II](#).

Also in 1987, a commission appointed by the Austrian government at Mr. Waldheim's request said that it had found no evidence that he was guilty of war crimes. But it concluded that he must have been aware of the atrocities committed around him and that by doing nothing about those crimes, he had facilitated them. Mr. Waldheim maintained that he was guiltless and never expressed remorse for his wartime service or for his cover-up.

"The way this man could construct an alternative biography for 30 years and live it is awesome," Professor Herzstein told The Times. "My own theory is that he was not a fanatic Nazi. He was horrified by what he saw, and after the war his conscious self internally reinforced his revulsion and created a false biography."

As a historian, Professor Herzstein vigorously pressed the government to release more secret files on war crimes suspects, but said he maintained "a certain feeling of detachment" in his research, even though it subjected him to criticism for his lack of outrage. He said his job was to find facts.

"I'll let others draw sweeping conclusions," he said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/10/world/europe/robert-herzstein-historian-who-linked-a-un-leader-to-nazi-war-crimes-dies-at-75.html? r=0>

THEATER PREVIEW

Minnesota Opera adds a potent kick in "The Elixir of Love"

By [Basil Considine, TC Daily Planet](#), January 19, 2015

There's something tasty brewing in Minneapolis's North Loop neighborhood. No, it's not another [microbrewery](#) or [microdistillery](#) to push the Twin Cities another rung up in the [nationwide city-versus-city ranking du jour](#). This beverage is a love potion with a potent kick, a quack doctor, and those old bedfellows of alcohol: liquid courage and unrequited love. Throw in some questionable life decisions and a few of the most beautiful pieces of classical vocal music ever written and the stage is set for a grand comedic romp in *The Elixir of Love*, Minnesota Opera's first mainstage work in 2015. *This article kicks off the Daily Planet's Opera Week coverage, a series of articles about opera in Minnesota leading up to the opening night of [The Elixir of Love](#) on Jan. 24. Over the course of seven days, our coverage will examine some of the individuals and organizations that write opera, produce it, and perform in it in the North Star State.*

Elixir, opening Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, is one of the most popular and enduring comedies in the operatic canon. Many of its most famous arias, like "[Una furtiva lagrima](#)," are instantly recognizable by listeners who've never set foot anywhere near an opera house; for a young tenor to have an operatic career and not tackle the potion-tossing Nemorino is nigh unheard of. Besides its many entertainment virtues, the work has had a profound impact on opera as a genre. A key event in a once-obscure young composer named Richard Wagner's rise to prominence was his arranging the orchestral score of *Elixir* for piano so that fans of the opera could play its music at home—a complex exercise that helped Wagner polish his own compositional craft. (Each one of Wagner's later operas is still performed today, but none of those written prior.)



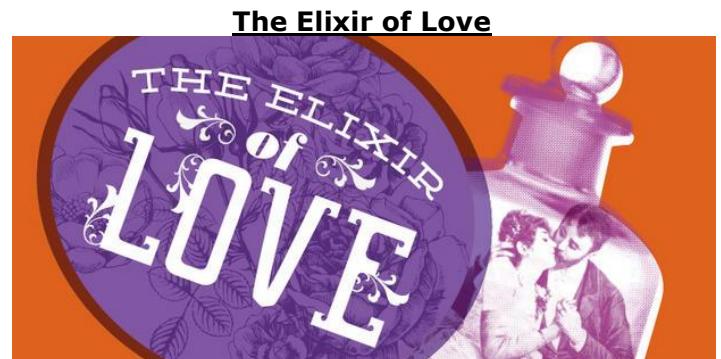
Alchemists distilling potions and trying to transmute lead to gold.
Engraving by Pieter Bruegel the Elder (c.1525-1569).

The [story of *L'elisir d'amore*](#), as the opera is known in Italian, follows Nemorino, a peasant in love with the

wealthy, attractive, and quite unobtainable—and, very importantly, uninterested—Adina. After overhearing the legend of Tristan and Iseult's love potion-fueled romance, he naturally decides to try and purchase such a potion himself. A traveling quack doctor, Dulcamara, happily trades a bottle of wine in disguise in exchange for all of Nemorino's money. (If this sounds unlikely in this day and age, just read a sales pitch for the 21st century's [non-Viagra, non-weight loss snake oil, human "pheromones"](#).) Comedy ensues as Nemorino's confidence waxes and wanes with different beverages, leading him to enlist in the army (it seemed a good idea at the time) in order to purchase what he thinks is the secret to lifelong love and happiness.

Some of the casting factors in Minnesota Opera's production of *Elixir* deserve special mention. Adina is played by the California-born soprano Nicole Cabell, who rocketed to fame after winning the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition in 2005; Cabell joins the cast from across the Atlantic, where she made a celebrated debut at the Opéra de Paris in December. Nemorino is played by the Italian-American tenor Leonardo Capalbo, whose last-minute stepping into the role at the 2011 Glyndebourne Festival earned rave reviews, including critics describing his addition to the cast as a stroke of luck for the audience and a minor miracle. Belcore, Nemorino's romantic rival, is played by the noted American baritone David Pershall; just two weeks after Minnesota Opera's production closes, Pershall will sing the same role at the Vienna State Opera in Austria. Andrew Wilkowske and Shannon Prickett, both of who gave memorable performances in the previous season, return to the Ordway's stage to round out the cast of principals.

Coverage of issues and events that affect Central Corridor neighborhoods and communities is funded in part by a grant from Central Corridor Funders Collaborative. ©2015 Basil Considine



01/24/2015 - 7:30pm - 02/01/2015 - 2:00pm
In one of the most endearing Italian comic operas, a love-struck country bumpkin sets out to win a feisty socialite's heart, aided by a "magic" potion and a doctor of dubious credentials.

<http://www.tcdailyplanet.net/arts/2015/01/19/minnesota-opera-brews-it-kick-elixir-love>

